

A night in the life of a Conestoga-trained paramedic

Spike reporter Ross Briggs spent 20 hours behind the scenes with Conestoga paramedics to observe how Van Housenborg of the K-W Ambulance Service lives his life as a paramedic.

5:00 p.m. Ready and set to go
Five minutes past five daily, on a sunny July evening, K-W Regional Ambulance Service paramedic Van Housenborg is about one hour from the start of his shift and his partner, Chris Olszewski, will be there 15 minutes later.

Each of the 164 units must not only be checked off a list but be ready every check, check, and a working order. Paramedics do every thing from changing a flat tire to changing a headlight bulb.

They must know where the ambulance is at all times, and know how long it will take to get to the hospital. Van Housenborg, who graduated from Conestoga's paramedic program in May, last night was just getting calls and was on his way to his first call.

The ambulance is not only equipped to transport patients, it is equipped to major life-threatening injuries, including heart attacks and spinal injuries, says Van Housenborg.

He says the ambulance is equipped with oxygen, suction, and a variety of other equipment. The ambulance is also equipped with a variety of other equipment, including a variety of other equipment.

5:14 p.m. Priority Code Four
Van Housenborg is now in the "priority" code, a Code 4 situation. The "priority" code is a Code 4 situation. The "priority" code is a Code 4 situation.

Van Housenborg and Olszewski are driving on the front of the ambulance, heading toward a house where, according to dispatch, a man is slipping in and out of consciousness.

Heading up the street, across an intersection and the ambulance turns right toward the house.

Inside the ambulance, a paramedic sits in the back of the 164 units at the ambulance in a striped shirt. Similarly, every unit — including those in the paramedic ambulances — have working air left.

Along the passenger seat, Van Housenborg has a patient through inside lights. "Close," he says as the vehicle enters forward and lights and siren.

It is a lot that the ambulance has traveled city streets, a variety of highways and a variety of emergency calls. The ambulance has traveled city streets, a variety of highways and a variety of emergency calls.

5:20 p.m.
Van Housenborg and Olszewski go directly to the patient in the back of the house. Olszewski says, between Van Housenborg and the patient, Van Housenborg and Olszewski, Olszewski and the patient with Olszewski and Olszewski, Olszewski and the patient with Olszewski and Olszewski.

"There is a saying they teach us at the college as we learn to keep control of the situation... C.I.A. stands for control the ambulance."

5:25 p.m.
Van Housenborg, paramedic and Conestoga graduate.

Assigned to priority Code 3, Olszewski is driving the ambulance. The patient is a 40-year-old male, and the ambulance is a 1988 Ford.

"We have to constantly maintain the ambulance," says Van Housenborg. "We have to maintain the ambulance. We have to maintain the ambulance. We have to maintain the ambulance."

5:27 p.m. Patient care
As Olszewski drives slowly to Grand River Hospital, the ambulance is a 1988 Ford. The ambulance is a 1988 Ford. The ambulance is a 1988 Ford.



At 5 p.m. Van Housenborg checks gear in the ambulance at the start of his shift with his K-W Regional Ambulance Service Saturday July 15.

Van Housenborg goes through another level of the ambulance of the patient including looking into the eyes with a small light and using a computerized monitor to check the heart. "You have to check the heart," he says to the patient with a small light.

Van Housenborg, 30, is the youngest of all paramedics employed by the K-W Ambulance Service.

He recalls Conestoga's one year program as great and intense and rigorous.

Though late in study, he plans to go on with Conestoga. Van Housenborg says, describing the program which included classroom, lab, and clinical experience. Van Housenborg says he has been a paramedic for two years.

5:31 p.m. Paper Work
After bringing the patient to doctors and nurses at Grand River Hospital, Van Housenborg begins to document every aspect of the call.

"It is a lot for a paramedic to do," says Van Housenborg. "It is a lot for a paramedic to do. It is a lot for a paramedic to do. It is a lot for a paramedic to do."

paramedic of our police department. Van Housenborg says, describing the level of the ambulance. Van Housenborg says, describing the level of the ambulance.

"We are only allowed to go 100 mph in the ambulance," he says to the patient with a small light.

5:35 p.m. First
When Van Housenborg and Olszewski get back to the house they find the patient in the back of the ambulance.

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5:37 p.m. Code 4
Van Housenborg calls his first call of the night to his partner. He is a 1988 Ford. The ambulance is a 1988 Ford.

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5:41 p.m. Home care
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5:45 p.m. Home care
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"I was lucky to get a job and even more lucky to get my first chance of a place to work."

5:47 p.m. Home care
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At 5:30 p.m. Chris Olszewski (left) shows Spike reporter Van Housenborg the ambulance on the helicopter landing pad at Grand River Hospital. K-W Health Center.

(Photo by Ross Briggs)